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Title : Need to frame a policy for promotion of sports activities to achieve long term goals in international games and sports.

SHRI K. P. DHANAPALAN (CHALAKUDY): With the second largest population in the world, our performance in the field of sports and games is insignificant compared to many tiny countries without the population of even a small state in our country. It is indeed a matter of pride and prestige that we are hosting the coming Commonwealth Games. It was announced that Rs. 678.00 crore (2008-09 to 2010-11) scheme is being implemented to improve the performance of the Indian contingent in the Commonwealth Games, 2010. Though the initiative deserves appreciation, it is to be noted that long term goals are to be set in this area and it is not prudent to expect short term results in the field of sports and games. In spite of the policy statements and efforts made so far, we are still lagging behind in emerging as a sporting nation. I would like to invite the attention of this House to the outstanding achievement of a Class XI boy from Kerala who won silver medal at World School Championship held in Estonia in Northern Europe. It is to be noted that the above achievement is made possible without much support of the State or Central Government. This was the first time that India is participating in the World School Championship and has sent a 12 member group of which five are from Kerala. Such talents of this nation and people behind them need to be supported.

The States and schools which put effort and deliver in the development of sports, need to be supported by the Government. There should be policies and programmes to support the schools a well as the students and coaches apart from improving the infrastructure available. Also, initiatives are required to achieve long term goals.